

What is claimed is:

*Sub A* 1. A method for routing an object in a transportation network, comprising:

obtaining, at a first point, a first address and a first functional property code associated with an object to be routed;

storing, at a data base, a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address associated with a second point;

determining, at the data base, if the first address is compatible with the second address;

determining, at the data base, if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first address is compatible with the associated second address; and

sending the third address to the first point if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising routing the object to the second point based on the third address.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein routing the object to the second point based on the third address comprises substituting the third address for the first address.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein substituting the third address for the first address comprises associating a label containing the third address with the object.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising retrieving the object from the second point based on the third address.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second address comprises a partial postal address.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second address matches the third address.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first address comprises part of the second address.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the third address comprises a pseudo-address.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first point comprises an origin point.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second point comprises a destination point.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data base is co-located with the first point.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data base is remote from the first point.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data base comprises a processor and a memory.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first

address matches the second address.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches part of the second address.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property codes matches the second functional property code.

18. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing the first functional property code at the first point.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising modifying the first functional property code before sending the first functional property code to the data base.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein modifying the first functional property code comprises substituting another functional property code for the first functional property code.

21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising sending a no match code from the data base to the first point if the first address is incompatible with the second address.

22. The method of Claim 1, further comprising sending a no match code from the data base to the first point if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

23. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing, at the data base, a third functional property code and a fourth address associated with a third point, wherein the third point is also associated with the second address.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising determining if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code. *A*

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising sending a no match code from the data base to the first point if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

26. The method of Claim 23, further comprising: determining if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first address is compatible with the associated second address; and

selecting between the third address and the fourth address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein selecting

between the third address and the fourth address comprises selecting the address associated with whichever of the second functional property code and the third functional property code matches the first functional property code.

28. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data base stores a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address for each of a plurality of second points.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein determining if the first address is compatible with the second address comprises determining if the first address is compatible with any of the second addresses.

30. The method of Claim 29, further comprising sending a no match code to the first point if the first address is incompatible with all of the second addresses.

31. The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing, at the data base, at least one additional functional property code associated with the second point, such that the second point has multiple associated second functional property codes.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property code is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

33. The method of Claim 32, further comprising sending a no match code from the data base to the first

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point if the first functional property code is incompatible with all of the second functional property codes.

34. The method of Claim 32, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a negated functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is compatible with the negated second functional property code.

35. The method of Claim 32, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a mandatory functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is not compatible with the mandatory second functional property code.

36. The method of Claim 31, further comprising obtaining and sending at least one additional functional property code associated with the first address, such that the first address has multiple associated first functional property codes.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if each of the first functional property codes is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

38. The method of Claim 1, wherein the transportation network is a parcel delivery network.

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39. A system for routing an object in a transportation network, comprising:

a first point operable to obtain and send a first address and a first functional property code associated with an object to a data base;

the data base coupled to the first point, the data base operable to:

store a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address associated with a second point;

receive the first address and the first functional property code from the first point;

determine if the first address is compatible with the second address;

determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first address is compatible with the associated second address; and

send the third address to the first point if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code.

40. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first point is further operable to facilitate routing of the object to the second point based on the third address.

41. The system of Claim 39, wherein the third address is substituted for the first address to facilitate routing of the object to the second point based on the third address.

42. The system of Claim 41, wherein a label containing the third address is associated with the object

to substitute the third address for the first address.

43. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first point is further operable to facilitate retrieving the object from the second point based on the third address.

44. The system of Claim 39, wherein the second address comprises a partial postal address.

45. The system of Claim 39, wherein the second address matches the third address.

46. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first address comprises part of the second address.

47. The system of Claim 39, wherein the third address comprises a pseudo-address.

48. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first point comprises an origin point.

49. The system of Claim 39, wherein the second point comprises a destination point.

50. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is co-located with the first point.

51. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is remote from the first point.

52. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base comprises a processor and a memory.

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53. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches the second address.

54. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches part of the second address.

55. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property codes matches the second functional property code.

56. The system of Claim 39, wherein the first point is further operable to store the first functional property code.

57. The system of Claim 56, wherein the first point is further operable to modify the first functional property code before sending the first functional property code to the data base.

58. The system of Claim 57, wherein modifying the first functional property code comprises substituting another functional property code for the first functional property code.

59. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is further operable to send a no match code to the first point if the first address is incompatible with the second address.

60. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base

is further operable to send a no match code to the first point if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

61. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is further operable to store a third functional property code and a fourth address associated with a third point, wherein the third point is also associated with the second address.

62. The system of Claim 61, wherein the data base is further operable to determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

63. The system of Claim 62, wherein the data base is further operable to send a no match code to the first point if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

64. The system of Claim 61, wherein the data base is further operable to:

determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first address is compatible with the second address; and

select between the third address and the fourth address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

65. The system of Claim 64, wherein selecting between the third address and the fourth address comprises selecting the address associated with whichever of the second functional property code and the third functional property code matches the first functional property code.

66. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is further operable to store a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address for each of a plurality of second points.

67. The system of Claim 66, wherein the data base is further operable to determine if the first address is compatible with any of the second addresses in determining if the first address is compatible with the second address.

68. The system of Claim 67, wherein the data base is further operable to send a no match code to the first point if the first address is incompatible with all of the second addresses.

69. The system of Claim 39, wherein the data base is further operable to store at least one additional functional property code associated with the second point, such that the second point has multiple associated second functional property codes.

70. The system of Claim 69, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property code is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

71. The system of Claim 70, wherein the data base is further operable to send a no match code to the first point if the first functional property code is incompatible with all of the second functional property codes.

72. The system of Claim 70, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a negated functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is compatible with the negated second functional property code.

73. The system of Claim 70, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a mandatory functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is not compatible with the mandatory functional property code.

74. The system of Claim 69, wherein the first point is further operable to obtain and send at least one additional functional property code associated with the first address, such that the first address has multiple associated first functional property codes.

75. The system of Claim 74, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if each of the first functional property codes is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

76. The system of Claim 39, wherein the

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transportation network is a parcel delivery network.

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77. A method for routing an object in a transportation network, comprising:

obtaining, at a first point, a first address and a first functional property code associated with an object to be routed;

communicating the first address and the first functional property code; and

receiving a second address, associated with a second point at the first point.

78. The method of Claim 77, further comprising facilitating routing of the object to the second point based on the second address.

79. The method of Claim 78, wherein facilitating routing comprises substituting the second address for the first address.

80. The method of Claim 79, wherein substituting the second address for the first address comprises associating a label containing the second address with the object.

81. The method of Claim 78, wherein facilitating routing comprises selecting a network node to which to route the object.

82. The method of Claim 77, further comprising facilitating retrieval of the object from the second point based on the second address.

83. The method of Claim 77, wherein obtaining a first address and a first functional property code comprises

detecting signals from a keyboard that designate the first address and the first functional property code.

84. The method of Claim 83, wherein detecting signals comprises detecting signals indicating the selection of the first address and the first functional property code in a display menu.

85. The method of Claim 84, wherein the first address and the first functional property code are displayed in a graphical user interface.

86. The method of Claim 77, wherein the first address comprises a partial postal address.

87. The method of Claim 77, wherein the second address comprises a pseudo-address.

88. The method of Claim 77, wherein the first point comprises an origin point.

89. The method of Claim 77, wherein the second point comprises a destination point.

90. The method of Claim 77, further comprising storing the first functional property code at the first point.

91. The method of Claim 90, further comprising modifying the first functional property code before communicating the first functional property code.

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92. The method of Claim 91, wherein modifying the first functional property code comprises substituting another functional property code for the first functional property code.

93. The method of Claim 91, wherein modifying the first functional property code comprises adding another functional property code to the first functional property code such that there are multiple functional property codes associated with the first address.

94. The method of Claim 77, wherein obtaining a first address and a first functional property code comprises generating the functional property code based on automated optical recognition of the object.

95. The method of Claim 77, further comprising receiving a no match code indicating that the first address is incompatible.

96. The method of Claim 77, further comprising receiving a no match code indicating that the first functional property code is incompatible.

97. The method of Claim 77, further comprising obtaining and communicating at least one additional functional property code associated with the first address, such that the first address has multiple associated first functional property codes.

98. The method of Claim 97, wherein at least one of the first functional property codes comprises a negated functional property code.

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99. The method of Claim 98, wherein at least one of the first functional property codes comprises a mandatory functional property code.

100. The method of Claim 77, wherein the transportation network is a parcel delivery network.

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101. A method for routing an object in a transportation network, comprising:

receiving a first address and a first functional property code associated with an object to be routed;

storing a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address associated with a second point;

determining if the first address is compatible with the second address;

determining if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first address is compatible with the second address; and

generating the third address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code.

102. The method of Claim 101, wherein the second address comprises a partial postal address.

103. The method of Claim 101, wherein the second address matches the third address.

104. The method of Claim 101, wherein the first address comprises part of the second address.

105. The method of Claim 101, wherein the third address comprises a pseudo-address.

106. The method of Claim 101, wherein the second point comprises a destination point.

107. The method of Claim 101, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first

address matches the second address.

108. The method of Claim 101, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches part of the second address.

109. The method of Claim 101, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property codes matches the second functional property code.

110. The method of Claim 101, further comprising generating a no match code if the first address is incompatible with the second address.

111. The method of Claim 101, further comprising generating a no match code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

112. The method of Claim 101, further comprising storing a third functional property code and a fourth address associated with a third point, wherein the third point is also associated with the second address.

113. The method of Claim 112, further comprising determining if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

114. The method of Claim 113, further comprising generating a no match code if the first functional property

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code is incompatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

115. The method of Claim 112, further comprising:  
determining if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first address is compatible with the second address;  
selecting between the third address and the fourth address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

116. The method of Claim 115, wherein selecting between the third address and the fourth address comprises selecting the address associated with whichever of the second functional property code and the third functional property code matches the first functional property code.

117. The method of Claim 101, wherein the data base stores a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address for each of a plurality of second points.

118. The method of Claim 117, wherein determining if the first address is compatible with the second address comprises determining if the first address is compatible with any of the second addresses.

119. The method of Claim 118, further comprising generating a no match code if the first address is incompatible with all of the second addresses.

120. The method of Claim 101, further comprising storing at least one additional functional property code associated with the second point, such that the second point has multiple associated second functional property codes.

121. The method of Claim 120, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property code is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

122. The method of Claim 121, further comprising generating a no match code if the first functional property code is incompatible with all of the second functional property codes.

123. The method of Claim 121, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a negated functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is compatible with the negated second functional property code.

124. The method of Claim 121, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a mandatory functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is not compatible with the mandatory second functional property code.

125. The method of Claim 120, further comprising receiving at least one additional functional property code

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associated with the first address, such that the first address has a plurality of associated first functional property codes.

126. The method of Claim 124, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if each of the first functional property codes is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

127. The method of Claim 101, wherein the transportation network is a parcel delivery network.

128. An apparatus for routing an object in a transportation network, comprising:

a memory operable to store:

a first address and a first functional property code associated with an object to be routed; and

a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address associated with a second point; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to:

receive the first address and the first functional property code;

determine if the first address is compatible with the second address;

determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first address is compatible with the second address; and

generate a signal representing the third address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code.

129. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the second address comprises a partial postal address.

130. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the second address matches the third address.

131. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the first address comprises part of the second address.

132. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the third address comprises a pseudo-address.

133. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the second point comprises a destination point.

134. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches the second address.

135. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the first address is compatible with the second address if the first address matches part of the second address.

136. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property codes matches the second functional property code.

137. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the processor is further operable to generate a no match code if the first address is incompatible with the second address.

138. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the processor is further operable to generate a no match code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code.

139. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the memory is further operable to store a third functional property code and a fourth address associated with a third point, wherein the third point is also associated with the second address.

140. The apparatus of Claim 139, wherein the processor is further operable to determine if the first

functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property code.

141. The apparatus of Claim 140, wherein the processor is further operable to generate a no match code if the first functional property code is incompatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

142. The apparatus of Claim 139, wherein the processor is further operable to:

determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the third functional property code if the first address is compatible with the second address; and

select between the third address and the fourth address if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code and the third functional property code.

143. The apparatus of Claim 142, wherein selecting between the third address and the fourth address comprises selecting the address associated with whichever of the second functional property code and the third functional property code matches the first functional property code.

144. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the memory is further operable to store a second functional property code, a second address, and a third address for each of a plurality of second points.

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145. The apparatus of Claim 144, wherein the processor is further operable to determine if the first address is compatible with any of the second addresses to determine the first address is compatible with the second address.

146. The apparatus of Claim 145, wherein the processor is further operable to generate a no match code if the first address is incompatible with all of second addresses.

147. The apparatus of Claim 128, further comprising storing at least one additional functional property code associated with the second point, such that the second point has multiple associated second functional property codes.

148. The apparatus of Claim 147, wherein the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code if the first functional property code is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes.

149. The apparatus of Claim 148, wherein the processor is further operable to generate a no match code if the first functional property code is incompatible with all of the second functional property codes.

150. The apparatus of Claim 148, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a negated functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property

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code is compatible with the negated second functional property code.

151. The apparatus of Claim 150, wherein at least one of the second functional property codes comprises a mandatory functional property code, whereby the first functional property code is not compatible with the second functional property codes if the first functional property code is not compatible with the mandatory second functional property code.

152. The apparatus of Claim 147, wherein the processor is further operable to receive at least one additional functional property code associated with the first address, such that the first address has a plurality of associated first functional property codes.

153. The apparatus of Claim 152, wherein the processor is further operable to determine if each of the first functional property codes is compatible with at least one of the second functional property codes to determine if the first functional property code is compatible with the second functional property code.

154. The apparatus of Claim 128, wherein the transportation network is a parcel delivery network.